

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 19 and 27. Please add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:

1                   1. (original) A communication system comprising:  
2                   an IP-enabled communication network;  
3                   at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the  
4                   remote site comprising:  
5                   (a) a plurality of subscribers,  
6                   (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,  
7                   (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
8                   switch, and  
9                   (d) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and  
10                  the communication network; and  
11                  at least one service site connected to the communication network, the  
12                  service site comprising:  
13                  (e) a service platform providing voice services;  
14                  (f) a switch connected to the service platform;  
15                  (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the  
16                  switch, and  
17                  (h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and  
18                  the communication network.

1                   2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2                  service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

1                   3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2                  service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

1                   4.       (canceled)

1                   5.       (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2        communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

1                   6.       (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2        communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1                   7.       (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the  
2        communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

*Cont* 1                   8.       (canceled)

*A<sup>3</sup>* 1                   9.       (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each  
2        multi-line hunt group comprises:  
3                    a plurality of voice communication lines; and  
4                    at least one signaling line carrying signaling data.

1                   10.      (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein  
2        each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and signaling data  
3        received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication  
4        network.

1                   11.      (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each  
2        gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format acceptable by the  
3        communication network and passes the converted line signaling protocols to at least  
4        one service site.

1                   12. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each  
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site  
3 to exchange signaling data.

1                   13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each  
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication  
3 network bandwidth.

1                   14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each  
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the  
3 communication network.

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1                   15. (original) A communication system for transmitting audible  
2 messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:  
3                   a locality of subscriber units;  
4                   a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic  
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each  
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least  
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and  
8                   a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the  
9 communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over  
10 each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a  
11 data format acceptable by the communication network.

1                   16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

1                   17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

1                   18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

1                   19. (canceled)

1                   20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site  
3 to exchange signaling data.

1                   21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication  
3 network bandwidth.

1                   22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the  
2 gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the  
3 communication network.

1                   23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2 communication network comprising:

3                   receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;  
4                   determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines  
5 and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received  
6 information and associated signaling;

7                   formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and  
8 signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and  
9                   sending the formatted information over the communication network.

1                   24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2 communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:

3                   receiving the formatted information over the communication network;

4                   reformatting the converted information back into the original format  
5                   for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at  
6                   least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and  
7                   sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

1                   25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent  
3                   to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

1                   26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent  
3                   to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

1                   27. (canceled)

1                   28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over IP (VoIP).

1                   29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over frame relay (VoFR).

1                   30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled  
2                   communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries  
3                   voice over ATM (VoATM).

1                   31. (new) A communication system comprising:  
2                   an IP-enabled communication network;

3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the  
4 remote site comprising:

- (a) a plurality of subscribers,
- (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,
- (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and
- (d) at least one wide area network access device interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network; and

12 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the  
13 service site comprising:

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- (e) a service platform providing voice services;
- (f) a switch connected to the service platform;
- (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and
- (h) at least one wide area network access device interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network.

3 a locality of subscriber units;

4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic  
5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each  
6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least  
7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

8 at least one wide area network access device in communication with  
9 each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network  
10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line

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- 11 and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by
- 12 the communication network.

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